



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
IUPUI

FYI – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

International

The **Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication**, working with the IUPUI Office of International Affairs, has begun an English language and teaching methodology training program linked to Vietnam's national development goals. This fall, thirty-three Vietnamese mathematics and information technology professors are taking part in a seven-week training program at the center focused on teaching in English at the university level. The program is part of a larger project, funded by the Vietnamese government to increase the English-language capacity of faculty and students.

Honors

The Master's Education Section of the National Communication Association selected the **MA in Applied Communication** program as the top MA program in the nation. The award recognizes programs demonstrating "excellent quality in developing research and teaching and that mentor students well in their personal and professional growth." The MA program, which began in 2003 with four students, offers both applied and theoretical approaches to study. Opportunities include partnerships with organizations in the community which allow students to apply their skills to communication challenges, a chance to work with international organizations like the World Health Organization, and collaborations with universities in Russia, Poland, and Macedonia. The program has grown since its inception, graduating 14 students last year and welcoming 24 new students—from around the country and world—this fall.

In Memory

The Department of Sociology has created a new graduate scholarship fund in memory of Professor **Suzanne Steinmetz**, a member of the faculty from 1989 until her sudden passing in 2009. As department chair and director of graduate studies Steinmetz played a key role in setting the department's course, particularly in shaping its graduate program. She was always concerned about the health and strength of the department and was generous with her time, knowledge, and friendship to faculty and students alike. The Suzanne Steinmetz Scholar in Sociology Fund will help graduate students defray the costs of their advanced studies. The first scholarship will be awarded this spring.

Engagement

Nearly 300 Latino high school students from approximately 18 Indiana schools participated in a college awareness and preparation seminar Monday, October 1, during The 12th Annual Post-Secondary Hispanic Seminar, better known as **META: Mapping Education Towards Achievement**. Thirty community members, including many Latino professionals, gave presentations, not only providing students with information about courses and career paths but also serving as role models for success. In addition, Latino college student volunteers spent the day talking one-to-one with the high school students, explaining the college experience.

Honors

Richard Gunderman, MD PhD, professor in the Indiana University Schools of Medicine, Liberal Arts, and Philanthropy, has been elected to the Indianapolis Public Schools' Hall of Fame. The IPS Hall of Fame exists to inspire current and future IPS students to lead lives of significance. Gunderman attended IPS schools from kindergarten through grade 12, graduating from Howe High School. He joins past IPS Hall of Fame inductees US Senators Maria Cantwell and Richard Lugar, artists Angela Brown and Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., and businessmen Eugene Glick and Sidney Eskenazi.

Awards

Andrea Jain, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, is the recipient of the 2012 Helen Crovetto Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religious Movements with Ties to South Asia. Jain and her article, "The Jain Terapanth and Modern Yoga in the Context of Late Capitalism," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, vol. 15 (2012), were recognized at the New Religious Movements Group-Nova Religio reception on Saturday, November 17, at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Appointments

Andre De Tienne, Professor of Philosophy; Director and General Editor of the Pierce Project, was named the president of the Semiotic Society of America during the associations' annual meeting in Toronto in November. The society has supported the study of semiotics and signs and sign-systems since 1975 and publishes *The American Journal of Semiotics*. De Tienne will serve in the role of president through 2013.

Events

The **Art, Race, Space Symposium** will be held at the IUPUI Campus Center on January 25, 2013. Artists and scholars from across the country will join leaders from Indianapolis' arts and culture sector in an interdisciplinary daylong symposium dedicated to exploring the complex relationships among art, race, and civic space. The symposium will begin at 8:30 am with a welcome from Liberal Arts' Dean Blomquist and will conclude at 5:30 pm. For more information about the free event: <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/artracespace> --more--



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Engagement

Mitchell Douglas, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Literature, was chosen to participate in the Landmark Lyrics poetry project. Organized by Brick Street Poetry, Hoosier poets visited and wrote poems about 20 different historic buildings around Indiana. Douglas went to Bush Stadium and composed a poem titled *Promise*. The project concluded with the poets reading their work at the Indiana Landmarks Center in Indianapolis.

Media

A documentary created by Professor **Robert White** (Sociology) entitled *Unfinished Business*, focused on the motives and ideology of Irish Republicans who reject constitutional politics and continue to endorse the right of Irish people to engage in armed struggle, is part of the Irish Republican Movement Collection in the IUPUI University Library archives. The collection was assembled to help understand post-1969 Irish Republicanism and focuses on the Provisional Irish Republican Army and Sinn Fein.

Honors

Professor **Bessie House-Soremekun** (Political Science, Africana Studies) was presented the Egba National Award of Excellence by King Michael Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, the Alake and paramount ruler of Egbaland in Ogun State, Nigeria, during the annual conference of the Egba National Association of the United States and Canada. House-Soremekun was praised for the contributions she has made to Egbaland in the areas of business, education and research. The Egba National Association works to protect the cultural heritage of Egba and Yewa. The organization seeks to create a dialogue between Egbas and Tewa in the Diaspora and to seek the economic advancement of all Egba descendants at home and abroad.

Philanthropy

Chris Conner (BA Sociology, 2006; MA Sociology, 2010) has created The Christopher T. Conner Graduate Thesis Fund to support sociology graduate students during their thesis preparation stage in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Connor, who is currently working on a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, wanted to particularly support students who are pursuing topics such as GLBT studies, popular culture, and urban studies. Through the estate gift, he says, "I also wanted to send a message to students that sociology is more than just numbers, statistics, and large scale issues. Sociology can be found in our everyday interactions - in music, sports, video games, etc."

Appointments

John Parrish-Sprowl, Professor of Communication Studies and Director of the Global Health Communication Center, has been invited to be a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Roster of Experts as an expert in behavioral and social interventions. He will also serve on a USAID panel of experts for an evidence summit.

Recognition

Kathy Lamb Kozenski, Executive Director of Geography Educators' Network of Indiana, an affiliate of the School of Liberal Arts, has received the Indiana Council for the Social Studies Special Service Award for her dedication and efforts in advocating for Social Studies education throughout the state.

Presentations

Philip Goff, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, presented two papers at Duke University on October 30. In the morning he spoke to a large group of students and faculty on religious radio and the making of modern American religion. That evening he spoke to faculty and graduate students of Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill on "Religion, the Media, and the 2012 Election" at a reception in his honor.

Presentations

Jennifer Bute, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies, and Nicole Martins, Assistant Professor in the Department of Telecommunications at Indiana University, recently presented the results of two separate studies that examined the role of the media in reflecting and shaping ideological assumptions and attitudes about teen pregnancy and parenthood in the United States as part of the Media Arts & Sciences Speaker Series. Bute presented an examination of public discourses about adolescent childbearing. This study examined the discourses communicated in such outlets to understand how public discussion of teenage pregnancy reveals assumptions about reproductive health, ideal family forms, and the expected life course.

Recognition

The IUPUI Office of International Affairs has named a new award for Professor **Susan Buck Sutton** (former Vice President for International Affairs). Award recipients will be selected based on their promotion of a campus climate where students are encouraged to study abroad and programs are developed and supported.

FYI from Liberal Arts is a service of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Information provided here may be used in publications, presentations and other media. Please contact the Office of Development and External Affairs of the School of Liberal Arts at libarts@iupui.edu with any questions or to gather further detail.